



XIUHTEZCATL MARTINEZ AND THE EARTH GUARDIANS

A young environmental activist in the Philippines plants tree seedlings to help restore a healthier planet.

EARTH KIDS!

YOUTH ECO-ACTIVISTS
WILL BRING THEIR VOICES
TO PARIS CLIMATE TALKS

By ANAND JAUREGUILORDA, age 10



This December, young environmental activists from around the world will be joining representatives from 200 countries at the annual U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21). Their goal is to create a concrete plan to limit the rise of global temperatures.

"If we don't act fast, climate change will make things much worse in the future. This is why climate change is so important for young people," said Andreas Sieber, who has been involved in environmental activism since he joined German Greenpeace Youth in 2007 at the age of 14. "Young people of today have to pay for today's inaction when they are grown up, if we don't act today."

A U.S.-based group called SustainUS is also sending 23 youth delegates to the conference. Before COP21, young activists will gather at the Conference of Youth to debate and talk about their hopes for the meeting.

Every year, there is a climate conference; however, COP21 is especially important because the impacts of global warming are increasing. 2014 was the warmest year on record, and previous global agreements have run out. There has not been an international climate treaty since the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, to which the United States under the Bush administration refused to agree. The goal of this conference is for all the countries involved to sign a legal agreement to reduce or cap greenhouse gas emissions. The idea is to make sure that the global average temperature does not rise more than two degrees Celsius above what it was before the Industrial Revolution in the 1890s. The Industrial Revolution was when people first began to build

machines, like steam engines and cotton spinning machines, and used many of them at a time in factories. These machines, powered by burning coal and wood, began adding pollution to the air. The Industrial Revolution also led to mass **deforestation**, a major contributor to global warming.

Climate scientists predict that even if global warming does not pass the two-degree mark, the world will still feel strong effects. Freshwater will disappear by 20 percent, there will be many more forest fires and the Arctic ice will be completely melted.

Young people will grow up in this climate-changed world and are not happy about it. For example, 21 children ranging in age from eight to 19 recently sued President Obama and his Cabinet for its inaction on climate change.

One youth activist who has gotten very involved in climate activism is 15-year-old Xiuhtezcatl Martinez from Colorado. He has created his own website, Earth Guardians, and has spoken at more than 100 environmental rallies and conferences. He even raps about climate change. He will also be attending the COP21.

"We envision young people confidently stepping up to lead projects, campaigns, and collective actions," said Martinez to the website Green Prophet. "This intergenerational movement is not waiting for others to take action."

Deforestation: Clearing forests



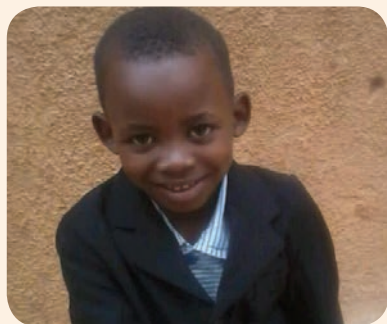
Conference of Youth
organizers mobilize
young people in prepa-
ration for this year's
conference, COY11.

Alongside his fellow Earth
Guardians, 15-year-old
indigenous ecoactivist
and rapper Xiuhtezcatl
Martinez, center left,
plants trees to help
reduce carbon levels.



XIUHTEZCATL MARTINEZ AND THE EARTH GUARDIANS

COY11 ORGANIZING TEAM



Meet... Nagi from Sudan

Name: Nagi

Age: 9

Lives in: Al-Ubayyid, capital of the state of North Kurdufan in Sudan

Siblings: Three brothers and four sisters

Language Spoken: Arabic

Favorite Food: Shaya (fried meat). He also loves cakes and cookies.

Hobbies: Soccer and running sports

Places He Would Most Love to Visit: Egypt and the United States

Favorite Animal: Horse

Favorite School Subject: Mathematics

What He Wants to Be When He Grows Up: Soccer player



Sudan at a Glance

Official Country Name: Republic of the Sudan

Population: Estimated 40 million

Official Languages: Arabic and English. However there are approximately 70 native languages spoken in Sudan.

Fun Facts:

- Sudan is the third largest country in the continent of Africa and the 16th largest country in the world.
- The name "Sudan" comes from the arabic phrase *bilal al-sudan*, meaning "land of the blacks."
- Ancient ancestors of indigenous Sudanese built a glorious civilization known as the Kingdom of Kush.
- In 1899, Egypt and Britain occupied Sudan. In 1956, Sudan regained its independence.
- Sudan was one country until South Sudan separated and became its own country in 2011.

By RIDA ALI, age 11

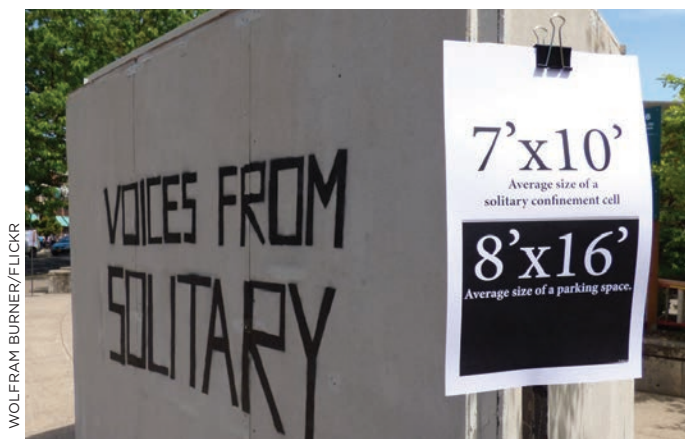


1,000

The approximate number of people killed by police officers in the United States this year. Source: The *Guardian*

nation&world

Prisoners Press to End Solitary Confinement



The average size of a solitary confinement cell is smaller than the average size of a parking space.

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 12



In the United States, at least 80,000 people are imprisoned in solitary confinement at this moment. Solitary confinement is when a prisoner is kept behind a steel door, with limited contact with other people, for 22 to 24 hours a day. According to the National Religious Campaign Against

use of solitary confinement in its prisons. California's plan is to dramatically decrease the number of prisoners kept in isolation. They also offered more rights to prisoners considered too dangerous to return to society. The recent agreement was based on a lawsuit brought by inmates confined to isolation for at least a decade at California's

Torture, "The United States has become a world leader in holding prisoners in prolonged solitary confinement." Solitary Confinement has been declared a form of torture by the United Nations.

On September 1 of this year, California agreed to overhaul the

Pelican Bay State Prison. Many of them struggle with panic attacks, hallucinations and overt paranoia as a result of their time in solitary confinement.

In 2011, prisoners of Pelican Bay protested the practice with a **hunger strike**. When none of their demands were met, the inmates organized another hunger strike that included more than 12,000 prisoners across California and in other states. During the third hunger strike in July 2013, which lasted 60 days, more than 60,000 prisoners participated.

In July of this year, President Obama became the first president to criticize solitary confinement, telling the *New York Times* that locking people up alone for extended periods of time "is not going to make us safer. That's not going to make us stronger. And if those individuals are ultimately released, how are they ever going to adapt?"

Hunger strike: Refusal to eat, carried out as a protest.

New Database Highlights Police Killings in the US

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12



This year, nearly 1,000 people have been killed by police officers in the United States, according to the *Guardian's* new website, "The Counted." The site, fully searchable by the public, is the largest database in the United States tracking deaths that occur during altercations with police, like those of 12-year-old Tamir Rice and 25-year-old Freddie Gray.

The Counted provides demographic data and a case summary of each death, regardless of whether they are ruled justifiable or unjustifiable by U.S. courts. Currently, data from the project shows that twice as many unarmed African Americans have been killed by police than unarmed whites or Hispanics. This data indicates that while people of all races are involved in police altercations, African Americans are more likely to be killed.

"Giving this kind of data to the public is a big thing," said Erica Garner, whose father's death last year during an incident with the NYPD led to international protests. "With better records, we can look at what is happening and what might need to change."

While "The Counted" receives news of police involved deaths from traditional sources like police reports and media outlets, the public also informs journalists about cases. Jamiles Larteya, a researcher and journalist for the project, said, "User tips are responsible for a really significant percentage of the reporting that we do, and for pushing



DEBRA SWEET/FICKR

Data from "The Counted" shows that twice as many unarmed African Americans have been killed by police than unarmed whites or Hispanics.

us to look into certain cases."

Larteya continued, "If people think law enforcement is overly criticized, they should welcome a project like ours that is keeping the raw data that can allow people on either side of the issue to speak accurately about what's going on."

indykids!

Phone: (212) 592-0116

E-mail: info@indykids.org

Website: www.indykids.org

Mail: IndyKids

P.O. Box 2281

New York, NY 10163

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IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

VOLUNTEERS

Design: Mike Newton

IndyKids Team: Danielle Archibald, Toi Sin Arvidsson, Sara Behrman, Mike Burke, Todd Eaton, GuerrunTZ, Scott Luxor, Kit Mills, Jyothi Natarajan, Malik Nickens, Isis Phillips, Diana Raimondi, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Bonnie Singer, Jonathan Tupas, Amanda Vender

Mentors: Victoria Azurin, Angela Barbuti, Chris Claro, Panyin Conduah, Victoria Havlicek, Candace Elise Hoes, Scott Luxor, Nina Ngai, Nancy Ryerson, Bonnie Singer, Sarah Todd, Jonathan Tupas

Editors: Danielle Archibald, Panyin Conduah, Candace Elise Hoes, Carly Mento, Laura Grow-Nyberg, Alison Nash, Jyothi Natarajan, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Neil Shibata

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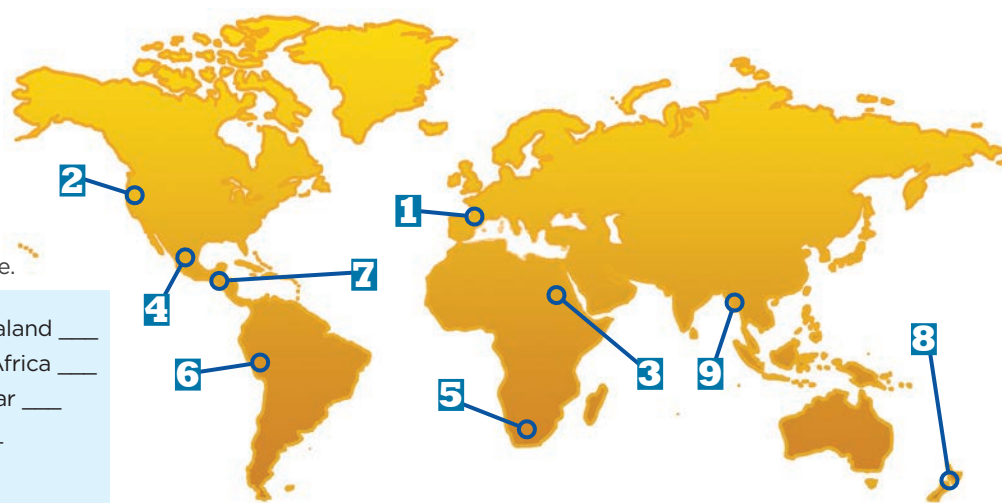
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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| a) Sudan ____ | f) New Zealand ____ |
| b) Paris, France ____ | g) South Africa ____ |
| c) California, USA ____ | h) Myanmar ____ |
| d) Mexico ____ | i) Peru ____ |
| e) Guatemala ____ | |



Guatemalans Push President to Resign

By BRANDEN WANG, age 11



Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina resigned after evidence came out that he was involved in a bribery scandal and thousands of Guatemalans protested to have him booted from office.

In April, the International Commission Against **Impunity** in Guatemala, backed by the United Nations, presented evidence of a corruption ring, known as La Línea. The scheme allowed companies importing goods into Guatemala to have lower taxes. Once the scandal was revealed to the public, groups of people in Guatemala City started to protest peacefully for Molina's resignation.

In August, prosecutors presented new evidence that Pérez Molina was one of La Línea's ringleaders. On August 27 of this year, Guatemala's Congress started the process of **impeachment**. That day, over 10,000 Guatemalans, including the young, old, rich and poor, gathered at Guatemala City's Constitution Square to pressure the president to resign. Companies and universities supported the cause and closed, letting their workers and students participate.

Pérez Molina also has history in Guatemala as a general in the Guatemalan Civil War, which lasted from 1960 to 1996. Under his leadership, the army was found to be responsible for multiple human rights violations, including 80 percent of the 53,000 civilian deaths resulting from the war.



More than 10,000 Guatemalans, young and old, peacefully protested for former President Molina's impeachment.

Mario Ovalle, a lawyer who marched with his daughters, told the Associated Press, "We usually don't go to protests, because of fear, but now this is sending a message of hope and an opportunity to educate our children, politically."

Pérez Molina resigned on September 2 and was arrested the following day after a court hearing.

María Luisa Rosal, field organizer for School of the Americas Watch, told *Common Dreams*, "The resignation is a victory for the people of Guatemala who have been on the streets, not just since April but for decades, struggling to build a counter memory to the impunity that exists in Guatemala."

Impeachment: To be removed from public office for corruption or breaking the law. **Impunity:** To avoid being punished for a crime or wrongdoing.

New Report Rejects Mexico's Explanation of Missing 43 Students

By LILY KUZMINSKI, age 11



A new report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) found that the Mexican government's official account of the 43 Mexican students who went missing on September 26, 2014, is full of inconsistencies. The students were campesinos, or rural farm workers, who were training to become community teachers in Iguala, Guerrero, in southern Mexico.

The new IACHR report says that the government didn't properly examine forensic evidence, investigate leads or probe the local army unit that had contact with the students on the night of their disappearance.

The report states that the students were mistaken for drug dealers and were killed by rival gang members. However, evidence indicates Mexican security forces were responsible for multiple attacks on the students and their ultimate abduction.

In a *Democracy Now!* interview, journalist John Gibler stated that the "municipal, state and federal police [were] actively participating in the attacks at nine different locations over more than three hours inside the city of Iguala, with the army watching all the time." Both video evidence of the attack and one of the buses carrying the students have also gone missing.

The students and government have a history of conflict.



This protest booth reads "¿Cuántos mas?" (How many more?) and shows the faces of the 43 missing students.

"[The government] didn't like graduates from rural schools to be conscious and have open minds," Oscar Arias, a graduate of Ayotzinapa, told *Al Jazeera*.

Since the students disappeared, their families have rallied many Mexican and international supporters demanding that the government be held accountable. The phrase "Fue el estado," or "It was the state," has become a popular cry of dissent among protesters. One year later, the social unrest continues as Mexicans demand answers from their government.

newsbriefs



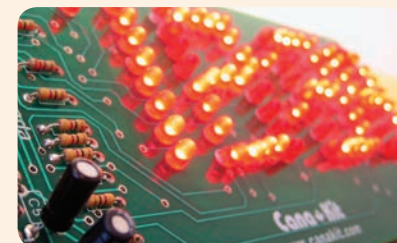
THE ALL-NITE IMAGES

A Call for Stronger Gun Control

By SABAT ALI, age 9



The Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church massacre in South Carolina, the WBDJ journalists shooting in Virginia and the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon that ended with 10 dead are just a few recent shootings that have led to a new round of calls for tighter gun control laws. The group Everytown for Gun Safety is campaigning to put pressure on Congress and the White House to enact stricter gun regulations. According to the *Washington Post*, as of August, there have been 247 mass shootings in 2015, each with at least four people shot. Today, the United States averages one mass shooting per day.



SCOTT SHERRILL-MIX

Ahmed Mohamed's Homemade Clock

By SABAT ALI, age 9, and *IndyKids* Staff



Ahmed Mohamed, a 14-year-old Muslim Texas teenager with a talent and a passion for engineering, made a homemade digital clock in only 20 minutes and brought it to school the next day. After a teacher assumed that Mohamed's clock was a bomb, he was pulled out of school in handcuffs, fingerprinted and interrogated about his intentions for the device. Eventually, no charges were made against Mohamed and after three days of suspension he was allowed to go back to school. The incident has prompted allegations of racism and Islamophobia. Mohamed has received much support, from President Obama's personal invitation to the White House to the widely used #IStandWithAhmed hashtag. Mohamed and his family now plan to move to Qatar where he will join the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's prestigious Young Innovators Program.

Volkswagen Lies About Pollution

By AMZAD ALI, age 12



In September, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that Volkswagen (VW) had software in their vehicles that hid the fact that the cars were heavy polluters. For six years, VW used software that detected when their vehicles were being tested to see how much pollution they created. The software reported that the cars were producing levels of pollution that were below the legal limit so that they could pass the tests without reducing harmful emissions. After the test was over, the vehicle would go back to creating emissions above the legal limit. VW has recalled millions of vehicles as a result of the scandal. Additionally, the scandal has prompted investigations into other brands also suspected of cheating.

LAST REAL INDIANS/TUMBLR



#NativeLivesMatter was created as a way to organize and draw attention to the violence against Native peoples.

#NativeLivesMatter!

In July 2015, Sarah Lee Circle Bear, a 24-year-old Lakota mother of two, died in a jail cell in South Dakota after being denied needed medical attention. Sarah is one of many Native Americans killed by law enforcement.

Deaths of Native Americans are disproportionate to their population. They make up only 0.8 percent of the U.S. citizenry, and yet they are victims in 1.9 percent of all police killings.

Inspired by #BlackLivesMatter, indigenous activists began using the hashtag #NativeLivesMatter. In December of 2014, a #NativeLivesMatter rally was held in South Dakota to call attention to police brutality against Native peoples.

“The police, they are like a colonial occupying force in these communities,” said David Lane, attorney for Lynn Eagle Feather, mother of 35-year-old Paul Castaway who was shot by police in 2015. “They are not there to serve and protect.”

FECONACO



Achuar youth join the protests against foreign oil wells in the Amazon.

Indigenous Peruvians Fight Against Oil Pollution

In Peru, the Achuar indigenous people of the Amazon are seizing oil wells built on their land. Originally, the Peruvian government owned the wells, but allowed foreign oil companies to control the wells and use the Achuar's land.

The oil wells contaminate soil, rivers and streams, damaging habitats and causing health issues for the Achuar people such as birth defects and premature deaths, according to the *Guardian*. They started a protest organization called the Federation of Indigenous Communities of the Corrientes River (FECONACO). FECONACO's demands are: “Clean water, **reparations** for oil pollution and more pay for the use of native lands.”

Currently, the government is trying to compromise with FECONACO's demands. A new contract has been written that gives more benefits to the indigenous people, but doesn't provide shares of oil profits.

INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS around the world

By SABAT ALI, age 9; MARISA HIRSCHFIELD, age 11; MARIANNE NACANAYNAY, age 13; AMIA McDONALD, age 11; TANYA PORCARI, age 12; MADISON ROBERTS, age 12; and *IndyKids* Staff; Introduction by MARIANNE MACANAYNAY, age 13



Across the globe, indigenous people, the original, native people of a land, have been oppressed in many ways. Indigenous ancestors have inhabited lands for much longer than modern governments, and yet today, native peoples often must rely on governments to recognize their indigenous identity. There are more than 5,000 indigenous groups worldwide, varying tremendously and differing in countless ways, but many groups face similar challenges, including displacement and military brutality. Indigenous resistance movements worldwide fight these struggles.



PAULA FUNNELL

A Saami man tends to his reindeer.

Europe's Indigenous Protect Reindeer

The Saami are the oldest ethnic group in Europe's Nordic countries. Today, they fight to protect their way of life.

Since 2006, Beowulf Mining, a U.K. mining company, has been developing its controversial Kallak North mining project in Sweden. The mine could destroy the lands that reindeer depend on for grazing. Reindeer herding is an important ritual for the Saami. Reindeer have been providing transport, fur, milk and meat to the Saami for thousands of years.

In 2013, Saami communities fought back by building a blockade out of large stones to prevent mining. The police dismantled it and six demonstrators were arrested, but the next day demonstrators put the blockade up again.

Although Kallak North continues, in June 2015 Beowulf agreed not to create new roads that would alter the path of the reindeer. If the reindeer population is harmed because of the mining, they must pay the local Saami.

Glossary of Terms

Reparations: When something of value (usually money or land) is given to help people who have been wronged.

Apartheid: A policy or system of segregation or discrimination on the basis of race.

Khoisan activists fight for land rights, constitutional recognition and to preserve their culture.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Khoisan Walk for Liberation

The Khoisan community of South Africa is demanding the government amend the constitution and recognize them as being their country's first indigenous people. Since 2013, Khoisan activists have organized an annual nine-day walk to the capital of Cape Town. There, Khoisan people discuss their grievances and deliver a petition and a list of demands to the government.

Under **apartheid**, the Khoisan were classified as lower-class “coloureds” and mistreated by the South African government. The discrimination continues today.

In August, the National Khoisan Council met with government leaders to discuss issues such as the violence affecting their communities and access to education, housing and economic opportunities. They demand legal rights as the oldest indigenous people of South Africa and demand access to their traditional lands.

“We don't look like our ancestors any more,” said Klintin Heems Whitehead, one of the liberation walkers. “It is important for us to show our people how important it is to hold on to our culture and what happens when you let go and just accept things.”

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG ECHO



Two Rohingya girls stand outside of the Myebon Internally Displaced Persons camp.

The Stateless Rohingya Muslims

For decades, the Rohingya Muslims indigenous to Myanmar have faced persecution and violence. The government of the mostly Buddhist Myanmar refuses to consider Rohingya Muslims formal citizens.

Many Rohingya are now refugees in their own land and have fled to nearby countries like Bangladesh and Thailand.

In Myanmar, Rohingya are forced to either prove family residence for over 60 years to qualify for second-class citizenship, or be placed into camps and deported. Human rights groups say this policy, known as the Rakhine Action Plan, is ethnic cleansing.

Rohingya are combating these injustices by raising awareness. Wai Wai Nu, a Rohingya co-founder of the #MyFriend campaign, seeks to reduce discrimination by asking people to post pictures with friends of different religious and ethnic backgrounds and tag them #MyFriend.

Tame Iti is a Māori rights activist and a former political prisoner.



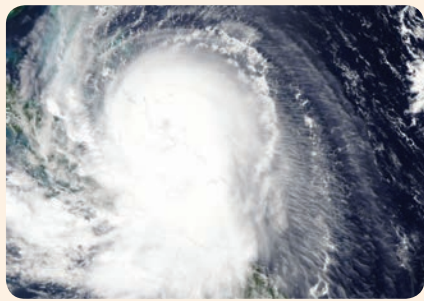
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Te Tirohanga Offers Healing to Māori Prisoners

The Māori people are the native people of New Zealand. Fifteen percent of New Zealand's population are Māori, and yet they now make up over 50 percent of prison inmates.

In 2014, Māori organizers created a program called Te Tirohanga, which means “the focus.” The program teaches Māori prisoners about their own history and culture. It encourages them to feel a special pride in being part of the Māori community and guides them in taking ownership of their own lives. Lasting 18 months per prisoner, this program helps them make a new start.

One Māori former prisoner said, “I have gained a better understanding of things and now know who my people are. I've got a vision of what I want to do and where I want to be in life because of this program.”



NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Historic Flooding in South Carolina

By DAPHNE OKUYAMA, age 11



In early October, South Carolina was hit by a once-in-a-thousand-years flood caused by Hurricane Joaquin. The flood left at least 19 dead in its wake. Scientists say that climate change is making the surface waters of the tropical Atlantic Ocean warmer, creating rising record temperatures and increasing the likelihood of extreme weather events.



Mealworms Can Digest Styrofoam

By NYLU BERNSTAYN, age 10



Current research by scientists at Stanford University suggests that mealworms (the larval form of the darkling beetle) can survive on a diet of styrofoam and other forms of polystyrene plastics. Less than 10 percent of the 33 million tons of plastics thrown away in the United States every year are recycled. Unrecycled plastic contaminates water and poisons animals. Amazingly, bacteria in the mealworm's gut breaks down plastic, converting it into carbon dioxide and fecal waste that can be used as soil for crops.



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Nobel Prize in Medicine

By LILY KUZMINSKI, age 11



On October 5, a Chinese scientist named Tu Youyou was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for her development of a drug that fights off malaria, a deadly parasite carried by mosquitoes. Professor Tu is the first Chinese woman to win the prize, and the first Chinese scientist to win the prize without traveling to the West to establish her career. She based her research on ancient Chinese medical texts that described malaria treatments dating back to 400 CE. Professor Tu invented the drug using chemicals derived from the sweet wormwood plant. Her success has pushed China's pharmaceutical industry to take a deeper look into traditional Chinese herbal medicine.



Water Discovered on Mars

By MARISA HIRSCHFIELD, age 11



STUART RANKIN

There are still no signs of life on Mars, but flowing saltwater has been discovered. NASA's Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft has spotted dark streaks on Mars, which turned out to be saltwater trickling down slopes. NASA's scientists are now hoping to find traces of life on the red planet. Michael Meyer, a lead scientist at NASA, is planning to launch a rocket to collect samples of rocks and soil in 2020.

10

The percentage of plastics thrown away in the United States every year that is actually recycled. That leaves 29,700,000 tons of un-recycled plastic. Source: *Futurity*

culture&activism

Occupy Summer School

By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 11



When you think of your average high school in July, you might imagine silent hallways and empty classrooms. This summer, at the Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women (UAI) in Brooklyn, teen girls full of ideas and action participated in Occupy Summer School, a three-week course on how to stage an effective protest.

Occupy Summer School was started by Occupy Alternative Banking, an organization founded in 2011 after the Occupy Wall Street protests. UAI Principal Kiri Soares spoke to the *New Yorker* about how her students "would have these really deep-seated feelings about unjust things that were happening to them, but they don't always know how to identify or articulate it." Cathy O'Neil, former hedge-fund analyst and one of the founders of Occupy Alternative Banking, suggested Occupy Summer School.

During the course, organizers and union members spoke to the teens about protest strategies. The students were interested in many different issues and chose to organize a protest against gender and racial inequality. They held a bake sale where they pre-



MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA/FLICKR

Along with UAI Principal Kiri Soares, Cathy O'Neil, an Occupy activist, Barnard math professor and former hedge-fund analyst, helped to start Occupy Summer School.

tended to sell sweets at different prices for different groups to spark conversations about wage discrimination. "We're an all-female school," senior Shavonnie Victor told her class. "We're going to protest the things that we see because we're females. Bam!"

The students have vowed to continue the work that they began at Occupy Summer School by self-organizing an after-school program, Project Occupy, at UAI this fall.

New Muslim Female Superheroes

By SARAH CATE WOLFSON, age 10



In 2013, Marvel created a new Ms. Marvel, a series of female superheroes. They introduced Kamala Khan, a Muslim teen from Jersey City with shapeshifting superpowers who fights against gender stereotypes. She is just one of several new female Muslim superhero characters created by mainstream and independent comic book publishers.

Marvel wants to add more diversity to their superhero comics. According to *Time*, Marvel added 16 new female superhero characters from 2012 to 2015. In order to do it, they are bringing on more diverse writers. G. Willow Wilson, the Muslim woman who created Kamala Khan for Marvel, said, "Now I have people you would least expect—like this giant, blond, bearded guy I met in Denver—telling me how they connect to Ms. Marvel because they were made fun of in school for being different."

Independent publishers are also creating web comics and cartoons about Muslim female superheroes. A cartoon character called the Burka Avenger uses her traditional dress's superpowers as a form of empowerment. It also hides her identity as she fights crime, similar to other superheroes. When the show was screened at an orphanage in Islamabad, 10-year-old Samia Naeem said she liked that the superhero "saved kids' lives [and] motivated them for education and school."

Some of Marvel's fans disliked the recent additions, specifically Kamala Khan, and sent hate mail, but other readers find them to be positive role models for young



HYAMEI/DEVANT ART

Kamala Khan is one of several new female Muslim superhero characters.

Muslim women. As one Mexican Muslim woman blogger said, "At the very least, they may represent alternatives to the ways in which Muslim women are depicted ... or omitted from such content for decades."

Meet IndyKids Kid Reporter, Eleanor Hedges Duroy

By RIDA ALI, age 11



Rida Ali: What made you want to write for *IndyKids*?

Eleanor Hedges Duroy: In general I really like to write and place my thoughts down on paper and wanted to help make a difference in the world. My mother found *IndyKids* and I thought it would be a good place to be able to write more and follow my passion.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to travel around places and explore the things that most people don't see. We don't really focus a lot on tourist attractions when we travel. We go to normal towns and countrysides and try to understand and communicate in the culture, and do the things that real people do.

I love to read in addition to writing, I read diverse books. I like to write in any genre and about anything

as long as it captures my mood and thoughts.

Who is your favorite social justice activist and why?

I admire the people who practice small acts of social justice in a day and on a daily basis. I believe that the average person can make big changes and bring different thoughts to people by being the kind of person who stands up for other's rights, who draws attention to inequalities in the communities where they live and who makes people think about the bigger issues in the world through daily conversation.

What inspires you?

My mother really inspires me, she pushes me to always look at an issue from different perspectives and to keep my mind open to learning new things.

Someday, you could Advocate For Your Community, like Taté Walker

By EVANGELINE COMEAU-KIRSCHNER, age 10



Met Taté Walker, Editor of *Native Peoples* magazine. As a Lakota woman, Taté advocates for many issues, including fair and accurate media representation, to uplift Native American communities.

Evangeline Comeau-Kirschner: How did you get involved in Indigenous rights activism?

Taté Walker: For me, being Indigenous (an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota) and being an Indigenous activist are one in the same. If I claim to be a part of my Native community, then I must also advocate for our issues and seek to make the community better.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to have fair and accurate representation in the media?

Think of the last five or 10 movies you saw: Were there any Native Americans in them? What about the last 20 movies? Thirty? Okay, let's move away from Hollywood. What comes to mind when you think about Native Americans in general?

Most people will describe someone with long, dark hair, dark skin, lots of feathers, riding horses bareback and living in tipis. Others might talk about what they've come across in museums, such as arrowheads and drums.

These images are stereotypes and portray Indigenous people as if we only lived in the past—that we're a past-tense people.

As an active blogger, filmmaker, and photographer, what advice do you have for youth who want to engage in social justice activism using these media?

Practice using the media you have available, whether that's a pencil and paper or a DSLR camera. Or maybe you're an artist and use paints or crayons or mixed media. Whatever it is, practice everyday.

Finally, keep asking questions. Always (respectfully) ask why. People (adults) like to shut down kids who ask a lot of questions and say they're annoying or distracting. Don't listen to them. Your questions are important, getting the answers is important.

To read the full version of this interview, please visit www.indykids.org.



TATÉ WALKER

Lanterns, Poetry and Peace

By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 13



On September 20, I attended the Shinnyo Lantern Floating Ceremony for Peace, a day organized by the Shinnyo-en Organization and New York's Buddhist community. They advocate for a world of peaceful coexistence between all people and beings on the earth, and the Lantern Float embodied everything the Shinnyo Center stands for.

I walked through the festival to the peaceful sound of children reading poetry and elegant dancers spinning along the water's edge. The serene mood was set by thousands of people who wrote their wishes for peace on countless lanterns that floated around the pool at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

I had a chance to talk to Qalvy Grainzvolt, youth leader and clergyman at the Shinnyo Center. He told me that one of the main goals behind the event was to give people the time to

“seriously take a minute to pause, stop, and think about what this big word of peace means.”

At night, the whole pool was glowing with lanterns, filled with quotes, letters, dreams, and ideas. They were made by people of every age. Some lanterns came from little children that drew pictures of animals and peace signs, while others were made by teenagers who snapped selfies of themselves as they let their lanterns, filled with thoughts and ambitions, into the water. All together, the lanterns were a lit-up force advocating for peace that came from so many people from all different backgrounds.

The Shinnyo Center works to show people that every single person can make contributions toward a world of peace, and the lanterns represented just that. As Grainzvolt said, “Peace is something that has to come from every part of society.”



Sadie speaks with Qalvy Grainzvolt, youth leader and clergyman at the Shinnyo Center.

JONATHAN TUPAS



GETTING WILD WITH THE SEA ANEMONE

By AUDREN HEDGES DUROY, age 9



Sea anemones are **invertebrates** which live in coastal saltwater and tropical regions. There are more than 1,000 different kinds of sea anemones. Most sea anemones are three to 12 inches in diameter, but some can grow to be six feet in diameter and can live to be more than 80 years old! They look like underwater flowers with waving tentacles when they are open, and when they are closed they look like a compact jelly blob. Sea anemones come in a variety of colors, and some are a rainbow pattern.

Sea anemones are carnivores: they eat fish, zooplankton, sea worms, mussels and **crustaceans**. To catch their food, they wait until an animal swims into their tentacles, which release poison to paralyze their prey. Sea anemones are capable of eating animals that are slightly larger than they are. They swallow their prey whole and continue to sting it even after it is swallowed.

FUN FACTS

- Sea anemones have one foot and use it to attach themselves to rocks.

- Sea anemones and algae help each other in a reciprocal relationship. Sea anemones provide safety for the algae, and in exchange, the algae give them oxygen and sugar.
- Clown fish hide in the tentacles of sea anemones without getting stung. The fish cover themselves in their own mucus so that the anemones don't recognize the clown fish as food.
- Sea anemones do not have brains. Instead, they have a complex nervous system that connects to their muscles and stomach.
- In 2014, scientists discovered that sea anemones' genes are half plant and half animal! They depend on a plant-like process to regulate the animal genes' activity.

Invertebrates – An animal lacking a backbone or a spinal column.

Crustaceans – Underwater animals with a shell, for example crabs and shrimp.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

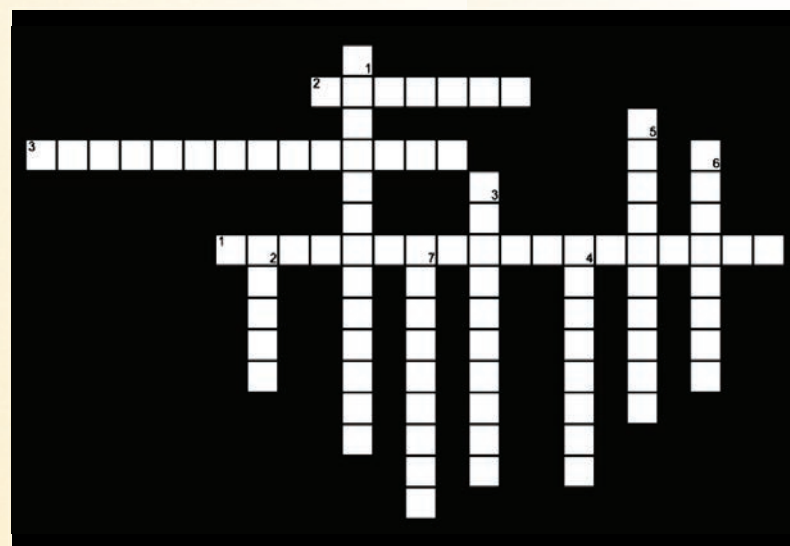
ACROSS:

1. A course that teaches youth how to protest effectively
2. He is a Māori rights activist and a former political prisoner
3. Xiuhtezcatl's organization

DOWN:

1. Taté Walker is the editor of this magazine
2. Youth eco-activists will attend this upcoming conference in Paris this December
3. The new Muslim Ms. Marvel
4. This animal is an important part of Saami culture
5. Inmates at this California prison held a hunger strike to end solitary confinement
6. This protest organization was started by Achuar activists in Peru
7. Mealworms can eat this form of plastic

(see page 2 for answers)



WHO AM I?

By EVANGELINE COMEAU-KIRSCHNER, age 9



1. I was born to coffee bean farmers on January 9, 1959, in the small town of Laj Chimal, located in the Quiché province of Guatemala.

2. I became prominent in the Guatemalan women's rights movement while I was still a teenager.

3. My family was deeply involved in organizing for better working conditions for peasants through the Committee of the Peasant Union.

4. When I was in my twenties, my mother, father and brother were arrested, tortured and killed for their work as peasant organizers.

5. In 1981, I went into hiding in Guatemala, then fled to Mexico City after receiving death threats. I continued

to organize from outside the country in support of Guatemalan peasant rights.

6. I narrated a film about the conflict between indigenous peasants and the Guatemalan military, called *When the Mountains Tremble*.

7. On at least three occasions, I have returned to Guatemala to plead the cause of Guatemalan peasants, but death threats have forced me to return into exile.

8. In 1992, I was awarded the Nobel Prize for my work as an advocate for indigenous peasant rights.



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ANSWER: Rigoberta Menchú



ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY FIAMMA NOTO, AGE 10

By FIAMMA NOTO, age 10